

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.       A method for manipulating a file in a filesystem, the filesystem having  
2 a first layer and a second layer, the method comprising:  
3           if the file is in the first layer, retrieving the file from the first layer, and if the  
4 file is subsequently changed, saving at least a portion of the file in the first layer;  
5           if the file is not in the first layer, retrieving the file from the second layer, and if  
6 the file is subsequently changed, saving at least a portion of the file in the first layer;  
7           if the file is not in the first layer or the second layer, creating the file and saving  
8 at least a portion of the file in the first layer.
- 1   2.       The method of claim 1, wherein the portion includes attributes associated with  
2 the file.